

MAR 13 2006

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

CASE DOCKET NO. 4510-1-DIV

THE APPLICATION OF: RITLAND

SERIAL NO: 10/776,094

DATE FILED: February 10, 2004

FOR: "POLYAXIAL CONNECTION DEVICE AND METHOD"

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
 COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
 P.O. BOX 1450  
 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

TRANSMITTED HEREWITH IS AN AMENDMENT IN THE ABOVE-IDENTIFIED APPLICATION

SMALL ENTITY STATUS OF THIS APPLICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.9 AND 1.27 HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY A  
 VERIFIED STATEMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED.

A VERIFIED STATEMENT TO ESTABLISH SMALL ENTITY STATUS UNDER 37 CFR 1.9 AND 1.27 IS ENCLOSED.

NO ADDITIONAL FEE IS REQUIRED.

THE FILING FEE HAS BEEN CALCULATED AS SHOWN BELOW:

	(COL. 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	(COL. 2) HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(COL. 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY			LARGE ENTITY	
				RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL:	*	28	-	** 20	8	X \$25 =	\$200.00	OR X \$50 =
INDEP:		5	-	*** 3	2	X \$100 =	\$200.00	OR X \$200 = \$160.00
<u>FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS</u>				+ \$180 =		OR	+ \$360 =	
<u>ADDITIONAL FEES</u>				TOTAL:	\$400.00	OR	TOTAL:	

\*IF THE ENTRY IN COL. 1 IS LESS THAN THE ENTRY IN COL. 2, WRITE "0" IN COL. 3.

\*\*IF THE "HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR" IN THIS SPACE IS LESS THAN 20, WRITE "20" IN THIS SPACE.

\*\*\*IF THE "HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR" IN THIS SPACE IS LESS THAN 3, WRITE "3" IN THIS SPACE.

THE "HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR" (TOTAL OR INDEPENDENT) IS THE HIGHEST NUMBER FOUND FROM THE EQUIVALENT BOX IN COL. 1 OF A PRIOR AMENDMENT OR THE NUMBER OF CLAIMS ORIGINALLY FILED.

PLEASE CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-1970 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$\_\_\_\_\_. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 400 TO COVER THE FEE IS ENCLOSED.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE PAYMENT OF THE FOLLOWING FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS COMMUNICATION OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-1970. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

ANY FILING FEES UNDER 37 CFR 1.16 FOR THE PRESENTATION OF EXTRA CLAIMS.

ANY PATENT APPLICATION PROCESSING FEES UNDER 37 CFR 1.17.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

Mark L. Yaskin  
Registration No. 45,246

3-3-2006

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS  
 BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES  
 POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN  
 ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR  
 PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450  
 ON March 3, 2006

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.  
 BY:



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

RITLAND

Serial No.: 10/776,094

Filed: February 10, 2004

Atty. File No.: 4510-1-DIV

For: "POLYAXIAL CONNECTION  
DEVICE AND METHOD"

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

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PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450  
ON March 31, 2006

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

BY:

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial review of the above-identified patent application by the Examiner, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment. A fee in the amount of \$400.00 is due with respect to this filing. A check is enclosed herewith. However, please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment to our deposit account no. 19-1970.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

03/14/2006 HLE333 00000019 10776094

01 FC:2201 200.00 OP  
02 FC:2202 200.00 OP